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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: SOME LUBERIZI INTEGRATION CENTER PROGRESS

Classified By: Ambassador Roger Meece. Reason 1.4 (b/d).

1. (U) Ambassadors/Charges composing the International Committee to Accompany the Transition (CIAT) stopped at the Luberizi military integration camp while on a visit to South Kivu Province July 22. The Luberizi camp is located very near the Burundi border, at the site of a prior, now largely destroyed, military training center. It was established as an integration center in recent months associated with the various "emergency plans" established to further DRC's military integration, but lacked even the most basic facilities to conduct training or other operations.

2. (SBU) The July 22 visit was encouraging, with visible progress at the camp. The European Union (EU) has committed funds in support of Luberizi camp improvements, but that money has not yet arrived through the delivery pipeline. Nonetheless, construction was underway of simple wooden barracks and other facilities, following a master plan for camp development that had already been defined. More significantly, CIAT members found over 3,000 troops assembled at the center, the majority of whom had opted for integration, and a smaller number choosing to be demobilized. MONUC Pakistani officials as well as GDRC officers at the camp affirmed to the CIAT that all the troops at the camp were receiving regular food rations and pay, albeit at the meager \$10/month level in effect for FARDC troops. All of this was coming out of the government budget. All troops destined for integration were equipped with fairly recently-issued uniforms and boots; most still retained weapons. Soldiers opting for demobilization wore civilian clothes.

3. (C) The ranking FARDC officer, a Colonel, briefed CIAT members that the assembled troops included nearly 1,000 "ex-government" forces, about the same number of ex-RCD-Goma troops, slightly more than 1,000 ex-MLC troops, about 410 ex-Mai Mai combatants, and roughly 40 "Ex-Masunzu" soldiers. (Note: The latter refers to South Kivu Banyamulenge soldiers who served under the command of General Masunzu. End Note). The camp had originally received 123 "ex-Masunzu" troops, but 83 of these had deserted, presumably returning to the Banyamulenge home area in South Kivu. Roughly 125 of the original Mai Mai contingent had also deserted. Of all remaining troops, however, only 2 had deserted, both of these ex-RCD-Goma soldiers. Most of the soldiers at the center were accompanied by their families. None of the training had been started for the troops to be integrated, and would not pending completion of some further facilities.

4. (C) The FARDC Colonel also reported the specific arms inventory of the camp, which included over 2,200 AK-47,s, four 60 mm mortars, and 7 RPG,s, the latter weapons having only a few rounds each of ammunition. Upon questioning by CIAT members, MONUC officers present confirmed that MONUC will soon be taking possession of all weapons and ammunition as a part of the agreed-upon integration procedures. Officials from CONADER, the GDRC agency in charge of DDR programs, affirmed that a DDR center has been established, about 14 kms. away, and that those soldiers to be demobilized would be transferred there after being disarmed. The German NGO, GTZ, has already been designated to oversee operations at the DDR camp.

5. (C) Comment: The Luberizi camp illustrated both difficulties and progress characteristic of the current integration and DDR programs. The camp had been established in haste with no adequate facilities. In theory, separation of the soldiers to be demobilized is to be done before troops arrive at the integration center, the opposite of what is occurring at Luberizi. Nonetheless, GDRC-supplied uniforms, food, and pay are arriving at the camp, construction is (belatedly) underway of facilities, and the mix of troops in the camp is a good representation of former belligerent armies. All are living in close proximity with no evident tension nor reported incidents. The relatively high desertion rate of former Mai Mai and Banyamulenge troops is not surprising, and can be expected as the integration and DDR processes move forward. In general, however, pending the start of training, the Luberizi camp is showing signs of how the larger integration program should develop. End comment.

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